



PILEATED WOODPECKER NESTING IN SONOMA COUNTY

It was on Saturday, May 27, 1950, on our ranch in Sonoma County at the foot of Mt. St. Helena, at an elevation of about 500 feet, that I first saw the Western Pileated Woodpecker (*ceophloeus pileatus picinus*). The bird was feeding young at its hole in a dead fir tree. Fire going through this particular area some 15 or 18 years ago left many dead trees standing, and made of it a woodpeckers' paradise. The hole is between 15 and 18 feet from the ground, roughly 4 by 5 to 5½ inches. Only one young bird was seen on the 27th, but judging from the actions of the parent bird, there must have been at least two others in the nest. The parent was feeding by regurgitation. This was at about 3:30 p.m. We waited until about 5 o'clock, but neither parent returned to the nest during that time.

On Sunday, June 4th, Mrs. A. B. Stephens and Mrs. T. C. Macormack were with me. At 10:05 the male bird brought food. There were three young birds to be seen. This feeding took much less time than on the previous Saturday afternoon. The most aggressive of the youngsters received the most food. At 10:25 the female came to the nest; she was more generous with her food supply. After waiting for some time, we left to look for other birds. On returning at twelve-thirty, we were again fortunate enough to see another feeding.

On Saturday, June 10th, I again visited the nest. The young ones (I saw only two), had grown very fast and their crests were almost as red as the adult's. The male was very nervous when he came with food, giving me a careful looking over, and drumming several times on a dead tree, possibly to call the mate. The youngsters squawked, meantime, and the meal, when it came, was a very hurried affair.

To my knowledge there have been few records of this bird from Sonoma County, and those some years ago, so I think these observations might be of interest to the Society.

June 13th, 1950

Miriam G. (Mrs. Edwin D.) Woodruff

The pileated woodpecker is listed in the Cazadero area, Sonoma County, in The Gull of Nov. 1926 and Jan. 1947.

Mrs. Reynolds reported the pileated woodpeckers nesting at Lokoya Lodge, Napa Co., in the same tree as last year (The Gull, Aug. 1949) but in a new hole about two feet lower. Three young left the nest June 8th.

June — FARALLON ISLAND — Trip

On Saturday, June 17, six boats, carrying 131 bird watchers, 40 from distant points—5 coming from Los Angeles—sailed from Berkeley and San Francisco piers, for S. Farallon Island, about 20 miles west of the Golden Gate.

The weather, especially important and anxiously awaited, cleared, bringing a gentle breeze and a superb sunny day as we neared the Island. No permits are allowed for landing.

In addition to porpoises sighted and a large colony of sea lions, the following combined bird observations totaled 34 species from pier to Island to pier:

Black-ft. albatross; sooty and pink-ft. sheerwater; fulmar; brown pelican; Farallon, Brandt, and Baird cormorant; Amer. egret; bk.-cr. night heron; scaup; white-wg., surf and Amer. scoter; turkey vulture; sparrow hawk; glauc.-wg., west., herring, Calif., ring-bl., and Heermann gull; Forster and caspian tern; Calif. murre; pigeon guillemot; marbled murrelet; Cassin and rhinoceros auklet; tufted puffin; barn and cliff swallow; raven; white-cr. sparrow.

Despite our not landing, as was possible on former trips, we netted 34 species, as against 20 on the 1922 trip (*The Gull*, Sept. 1922), and 17 on the 1930 trip (*The Gull*, Oct. 1930). These former trips were taken in the Fall. Also mention is made of a 1917 trip, the first year of the Association, but before *The Gull* took wing.

The historically minded will find extended accounts of Audubon landings and bird conditions found on the Island, and historical and geological information in the above-mentioned Gulls, also *THE FARALLONES* from the *AMERICAN GUIDE SERIES*, San Francisco WPA, p. 359 et seq., carries still more,—dating back to Sir Francis Drake's landing, July 24, 1579.

J. ROSS MCFADYEN, *Historian*.

HIGH LIGHTS OF JUNE MEETING. A clear warm evening brought out about 40 members and friends to enjoy the picnic supper under green trees with bird-song accompaniment. Mr. Jack Parker, Resident Park Naturalist, told of the work being done in this Nature Area in developing junior naturalists. Mr. Curl stated that of 403 bird censuses in U. S. the East Bay census ranked sixth with 135 species. Reported in "*The Audubon Naturalist*".

Tickets are now being sold for the Fall series of Screen Tour Lectures, sponsored by the Society.

—EDITH D. PRESTON, *Sec. pro-tem*.

BIRD BEHAVIOR. An enraged mockingbird nips the back of the tantalizing cat.—Miss Frances Blake. Every day at 4 p.m., ten or a dozen bush-tits bathe huddled together at the rim of the bird-bath, lest they get beyond their depth. —Mrs. George Trueblood. (Unusual items welcome.—ED.)

NEW MEMBERS: We welcome the following: from San Francisco, Mr. L. G. Carpenter, Mr. John Rosekrans; from Oakland, Mrs. C. N. Harden, Miss Doris P. Smith; from Berkeley, Mr. C. P. Stueben; from Richmond, Mr. George Edwards; from Walnut Creek, David W. Todd III.

June — POINT REYES — Trip

Sunday June 11th was a clear colorful day with only light wind. This unusual day was greatly enjoyed by about 25 members and guests under the leadership of Mr. Curl. The murre, by the thousands, covered a particular rock area, shared partly with Baird cormorants on their scant wreath-nests of sea-weed. The cliffs were splashed with scarlet lichen and brilliant succulents added much color. The tufted puffin was the prize bird. The following 61 species were identified during the day.

Farallon, Brandt, and Baird cormorant; great blue, Amer., snowy, and black-cr. heron; white-wg., surf, and Amer. scoter; turkey vulture; marsh, duck, and sparrow hawk; Calif. quail; bk. oystercatcher; glaucous-wg., western, and ring-bl. gull; Calif. murre; pigeon guillemot; tufted puffin; mn. dove; bd. kingfisher; hairy woodpecker; bk. phoebe; west. flycatcher; violet-gr., rough-wg., barn, and cliff swallow; Steller and scrub (Cal.) jay; Amer. raven; crow; creeper; wren-tit; marsh and rock wren; robin; russet-backed thrush; western bluebird; warb. vireo; yellow throat; pileolated warbler; English sparrow; meadowlark; red-wing, and Brewer blackbird; black-head. grosbeak; lazuli bunting; house finch; pine siskin; Amer. and Lawrence goldfinch; spotted and brown towhee; Savannah sparrow; Oregon junco; white-cr. and song sparrow.

—Frank A. Scott, Historian

May — MT. DIABLO — Trip

On Saturday, May 27, about 35 members and guests enjoyed a beautiful warm day at Mt. Diablo. In the morning most of the party birded near the Mt. Diablo Country Club. A sharp-shinned hawk feeding its young was an unusual feature here. A party of eight started from Rock City in the park and went down Dan Cook Canyon to the park boundary. The birding here was quite good, and included a canyon wren, western wood pewees, western tanagers, and numerous house wrens, but no Bell sparrows. All lunched together at Rock City, then some went on to the summit and out the north entrance. The following 57 species were observed.

Turkey vulture; sharp-sh., red-tl. and sparrow hawk; Cal. quail; kildeer; mourning dove; band-tl. pigeon; wh.-th. swift; Anna hummer; red-sh. flicker; Cal. and hairy woodpecker; west. kingbird; ash-th. and western flycatcher; pewee; horned lark; violet-gn. and barn swallow; Steller and scrub (Cal.) jay; titmouse; bush-tit; wh.-br. nuthatch; wren-tit; house, Bewick and canyon wren; mockingbird; Cal. thrasher; robin; russet-bk. thrush; west. bluebird; shrike; Hutton and warb. vireo; orange-cr. and yellow warbler; English sparrow; meadowlark; redwg. and Brewer blackbird; Bullock oriole; tanager; bk.-hd. grosbeak; lazuli bunting; purple and house finch; Amer. and gr.-bk. goldfinch; spotted and br. towhee; lark sparrow; Ore. junco; wh.-cr. and song sparrow.

A. Lawrence Curl, Leader and Historian

LECTURE Friday, July 21 at 8 p.m. Tilden Nature Area, Tilden Regional Park. "Problems of Managing Suburban Deer Populations" by Prof. A. Starker Leopold.

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SCHOLARSHIP AWARD for Audubon Camp of California has been given to Wilbur E. Twining; graduate of University of California 1947, cum laude, with M.A. degree 1950; an experienced Scout Leader and Camp Director; an Educator and Instructor in Techniques in Camping and Outdoor Living, University of California Extension 1948-50.
 —Laurel Reynolds, Ethel Richardson, Frank Scott; Committee.

JULY MEETING

The 394th meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held July 13th at 7:30 p.m. in the Assembly Hall of the Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Sts., San Francisco.

Following the business meeting, a motion picture "Sierra Fish and Game" will be shown by courtesy of the P. G. & E. Along with various species of fish there will be action shots of deer, formations of wild geese, ducks, etc.

Guests are welcome. No-host dinner at Hotel Whitcomb at 6 p.m.

— HARRY C. ADAMSON, *Program Chairman.*

IN MEMORIAM: MR. W. S. BURNETT, a member since 1948.

JULY TAYLOR STATE PARK TRIP

On Sunday, July 9, to Samuel Taylor State Park in Marin Co. Here is a chance to explore an unusual habitat, a heavily-wooded area along the banks of a sizeable stream, Lagunitas Creek. From San Francisco take 7:40 Point Reyes Station bus, and get off at the picnic area in the park, about 10 miles beyond Fairfax. Meet here at 9:00. Bring lunch, binoculars, and interested friends. Note that this trip is scheduled for the Sunday *before* the July meeting.

JULY LAND'S END TRIP

On Saturday, July 29, to the Land's End area in north-west San Francisco. Meet at Point Lobos Ave. and Camino del Mar at 7:00 a.m. The territory to be explored will be the Veterans' Facility near Fort Miley, Lincoln Park, Land's End, Sutro Heights and Seal Rocks. Pigeon Guillemots are usually seen in this trip. Leader, Arthur H. Myer. Bring binoculars, telescope and interested friends, and lunch if desired.

A. Laurence Curl,
 Field Trips Chairman

Golden Gate Audubon Society

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

Branch of National Audubon Society

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Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p. m.

Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Sts., San Francisco
 Alternate months — Oakland.

Joint membership, Local & National \$5.00 per Year, includes Audubon Magazine